



11. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.
12. (amended) A stent as set forth in claim 13 wherein the coating comprises at least one member selected from a group consisting of: amorphous silicon carbide, hydrogenated amorphous silicon carbide and gold.
13. (new) A stent having a surface with a coating, characterised in that the coating is formed irregularly on the surface.
14. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.
15. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are arranged at a greater mutual spacing than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.
16. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 6 wherein the coating islands in regions involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface upon stretching of the stent are smaller than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.